

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01797 271908Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4251

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR, GY

SUBJECT: CUBAN TRAINING CAMPS IN GUYANA

REF: CARACAS 2218

1. THE RUMORED PRESENCE OF CUBANS AND CHINESE IN GUYANA HAS SO FAR RECEIVED SURPRISEINGLY MODEST PRESS PLAY AND NO OFFICIAL COMMENT HERE. THOSE ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED ON THE "RESUMEN" STORY HAVE BEEN SHORT AND CONFINED TO SUMMARIZING WHAT "RESUMEN" PUBLISHED.

2. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN OF THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE INSTRUCTORS IN THE RUMORED GUYANESE TRAINING CAMPS. CHINA, HE NOTED, HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THESE TRAINING CAMPS AND ITS INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE CONTRADICTIONARY IN ANY EVENT, SINCE IT WOULD BE COOPERATING WITH SOVIET IMPERIEALISM.

3. ITAMARATY, THE PRESS REPORTS, IS SEEKING CONFIRMATION FROM THE GOB AMBASSADOR IN GEORGETOWN OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ALLEGED CAMPS.

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01797 271908Z

4. PRESS CITED GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL SIMEON NEVILLE

SELMAN AS DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF CUBAN AND CHINESE INSTRUCTORS IN THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING CAMPS "SINCE THIS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF AN INSTITUTION RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR GUYANESE CITIZENS". HE CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF CAMPS LOCATED AT PAPAY, KIMBIA AND TUMATURNARI FOR THE OBLIGATORY NATIONAL PARA-MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM AND THE ARTICLE CLOSED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE ALLEGED CHINESE PRESENCE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO ETHNIC CHINESE-GUYANESE CITIZENS DOING THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

5. MILITARY SOURCES CITED THE CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, A JOURNAL IN THE CAPITAL, CLAIM NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRAINING CAMPS EXCEPT VIA PRESS AND TELEVISION REPORTS. THE CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, HOWEVER, OBSERVED IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE OAS DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE VENEZUELAN PRESS CLAIMS.

6. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED BY LOCAL O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT THAT HIS PAPER WANTED TO SEND HIM TO GEORGETOWN TO FOLLOW UP ON THE "RESUMEN" STORY, BUT THE GUYANESE EMBASSY REFUSED HIS VISA REQUEST. SUBSEQUENT PRESS REPORTS DECLARED THAT THE GOG HAS SUSPENDED VISA ISSUANCE TO ALL FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FOR SIX MONTHS. CRIMMINS

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